Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit herewith the references on the attached form PTO-1449, copies of which are enclosed. This information disclosure statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c) (1), after the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of either a Notice of Allowance or a Final Office Action. The fee of \$180.00 should be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-0217.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material to the patentability of the invention, or that the listed documents are prior art. Applicant reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application. If it should be determined that any of the listed documents constitute prior art under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office relevant facts and law regarding the significance of such documents to the patentability of the claimed invention.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return copies of the enclosed form PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office communication.

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If there are any questions, please call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 24 2002

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